

October 26, 2017

To: Belmont Town Meeting Members  
Re: November 13, 2017 Special Town Meeting

Dear fellow Town Meeting members:

We write to you in our capacity as the Board of Library Trustees. At the upcoming Special Town Meeting, members will be asked to approve the establishment of a Building Committee and partial funding for a schematic design for the Belmont Public Library. The Board of Library Trustees requests your favorable vote on this matter.

The Library recently completed a Feasibility Study to explore options for the Library at its current Concord Avenue site. After careful consideration of the results of the study, including the structural engineer's report, the Feasibility Committee recommended the new construction option, and the Committee's recommendation was endorsed by the Trustees. The Feasibility Committee and the Trustees believe that the significant structural and access limitations with the current facility are such that new construction is the most cost-effective option for the building.

The Trustees are quite cognizant of competing capital projects in Belmont, several of which will be discussed and considered at Town Meeting. The Library's request at this time is to continue with the next phase of the process and prepare a schematic design in order to facilitate and commence a private fund-raising effort for a new Library. The Belmont Library Foundation is prepared to undertake the fundraising effort, but has requested this tool to do so successfully. The current warrant article requests that Town Meeting approve establishment of a building committee, and funding for one-half of the cost of the schematic design work -- approximately \$150,000. The estimated cost for the schematic design is \$300,000 and the Belmont Library Foundation has agreed to fund half of the cost of the work.

Please feel free to contact any of us or Library Director Peter Struzziero with any questions. We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting in November.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Keohane, Chair  
Elaine Alligood, Vice Chair  
Gail Mann, Secretary  
Mark Carthy  
Corrine McCue Olmsted  
Mary Stearns

cc: Peter Struzziero, Library Director  
Board of Library Trustees  
BOS, Ellen Cushman